

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A filter medium for removing particulates from a fluid stream comprising:

A porous fiber filter medium and an adhesive coating therefor, the adhesive coating comprising a major portion by weight of a pure oil group and a minor portion by weight of a material of preselected thickener; the oil of the pure oil group being ~~chosen from the group consisting of vegetable, agricultural mineral oil and animal oils including one or a combination of oils extracted from soybean, corn, cottonseed, sunflower seed, safflower, nut, sesame, olives, apricots, grape seeds, palm, cedar, seal, fish, fatty oils or mink, the preselected thickener including one or a combination of thickeners chosen from a group including~~ being silica, treated clay, inorganic powder or a polymeric material or a preselected mixture by weight of the same to thicken and increase flow resistance.

2. cancelled

3. (currently amended): The filter medium of claim 1, wherein said adhesive coating mixture comprises approximately 95% percent by weight of said pure oil and

approximately 5% by weight of said thickener.

4. cancelled

5. cancelled

6. cancelled

7. (original): The filter medium of claim 1, wherein said adhesive coating has a viscosity in the range of 0.5-500 poise.

8. (original): The filter medium of claim 1, wherein said filter medium is sized and sandwiches between a pair of substantially rigid flow-through support frame members, at least one of said frame members including spaced, normally extending closing posts adapted to extend through said medium and the other of said frame members including spaced receptacles aligned with said closing posts to nestingly engage said posts.

9. (original): The filter medium of claim 8, wherein said closing posts have resilient tips at distal extremities thereof and said receptacles having aligned apertures to receive and yieldingly compress said post tips as they pass therethrough to expand and nestingly engage recesses in said apertures.